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E O 12065: GDS 4/22/87 (LUERS, WILLIAM H) OR-M
 TAGS: VE
 SUBJECT: US/VENEZUELA/ VISIT TO WASHINGTON OF MINISTERS
 OF INTERIOR AND OF THE PRESIDENCY

1. C-ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: MINISTER OF INTERIOR MONTES DE OCA CONFIRMED TO
 ME APRIL 21 THAT HE AND MINISTER OF THE PRESIDENCY GONZALO
 GARCIA BUSTILLOS HAVE THE PRESIDENT'S PERMISSION AND ENCOURAGEMENT
 TO PAY A VISIT TO WASHINGTON BEGINNING MAY 4. MONTES DE OCA
 SAID THE PURPOSE IS TO TALK FRANKLY ABOUT VENEZUELAS
 VIEW OF THE IMPORTANT HEMISPHERIC AND GLOBAL POLITICAL ISSUES.
 THE TWO MINISTERS WANT TO MEET FOR SUBSTANTIVE TALKS WITH TOP
 MEMBERS OF THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION AND WITH KEY MEMBERS OF
 CONGRESS. THEY COULD COMMIT TO ABOUT THREE WORKING DAYS AND
 MAY POSSIBLY REMAIN IN WASHINGTON THROUGH MAY 9. THE TWO
 KEY MEETINGS FOR THEM ARE WITH VICE PRESIDENT BUSH AND
 SECRETARY OF STATE HAIG. END SUMMARY.

3. THE TWO KEY GOV MINISTERS. THESE TWO MINISTERS RARELY

CONFIDENTIAL

State Dept. review completed

CONFIDENTIAL

STATE

81 6277460

PAGE 002

NC 6277460

TOR: 221910Z APR 81

LEAVE VENEZUELA AND IF THEY DO, IT IS USUALLY FOR LESS THAN 48 HOURS. TO MY KNOWLEDGE THEY HAVE NEVER BEEN OUT OF THE COUNTRY AT THE SAME TIME. THEY ARE THE POLITICAL LINCHPINS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH. THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR IS TRADITIONALLY REFERRED TO AS THE "PRIME MINISTER" SERVING AS "ACTING PRESIDENT" IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PRESIDENT AND COORDINATING ALL GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES. THE MINISTER OF THE PRESIDENCY IS THE EXPEDITER AND RIGHT HAND OF THE PRESIDENT FUNCTIONING AS A ROUGH EQUIVALENT IN THE U S OF A COMBINED HEAD OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL AND CHIEF OF THE WHITE HOUSE STAFF. MONTES DE OCA IS PROBABLY THE CLEAREST AND TOUGHEST THINKER IN THE GOVERNMENT AND INDEED IN THE COPEI PARTY ON POLITICAL FOREIGN POLICY QUESTIONS. BOTH MEN ARE USED BY THE PRESIDENT TO COMMUNICATE WITH BROAD SEGMENTS OF THE VENEZUELAN AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

4. THE VENEZUELAN AGENDA. MONTES DE OCA SAID HE AND GARCIA BUSTILLOS WANT TO GIVE VENEZUELA'S VIEW OF THE HEMISPHERIC AND GLOBAL ISSUES. THEY WANT TO SPEAK FRANKLY ABOUT THE DIFFERENCES AND AGREEMENTS WITH THE U S ON THESE ISSUES. HE LISTED AS EXAMPLES OF IMPORTANT TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED THE FOLLOWING:

- BRAZIL. HOW WE SEE THIS MAJOR COUNTRY AND ITS ROLE,
- CUBA. HOW WE AND VENEZUELA SHOULD REACT IF CUBA, FOR EXAMPLE, SHOULD RETURN TO INTERVENTIONIST POLICIES SIMILAR TO THOSE IN THE EARLY 1960'S,
- CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN. REGIONAL AND COUNTRY BY COUNTRY DISCUSSION OF PROBLEMS AND STRATEGIES FOR DEALING WITH THEM, INCLUDING COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED STATES,
- THE ANDEAN PACT. ITS IMPORTANCE TO VENEZUELA AND THE ATTITUDE OF THE U S,
- CHINA. WHY VENEZUELAN RELATIONS ARE GROWING WITH CHINA AND WHAT THEY MEAN,
- ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. BOTH ECONOMIC AND SECURITY ASSISTANCE.

THESE ARE ISSUES ILLUSTRATIVE OF THEIR DESIRE TO TALK ABOUT POLITICAL AND SECURITY QUESTIONS AND HOW TO BEST CLARIFY AND COORDINATE OUR APPROACHES.

5. THE U S AGENDA. WE WILL WANT TO TALK ABOUT THESE SAME POLITICAL ISSUES. IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE OR DESIRABLE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

STATE

81 6277460

PAGE 003

NC 6277460

TOR: 221910Z APR 81

FOR US TO GET INTO ECONOMIC, PETROLEUM OR EVEN NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES, ALTHOUGH WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO BE RESPONSIVE. ADDITIONAL ITEMS WE MIGHT WANT TO CONSIDER ARE:

--EAST/WEST- INFORM THEM OF HOW WE SEE US/SOVIET RELATIONS AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO HEMISPHERE ISSUES (REALIZING THAT VENEZUELA THINKS WE MAY BE OVEREMPHASIZING THE EAST/WEST RELATIONSHIP TO THE DETRIMENT OF EFFECTIVE POLICY IN THE HEMISPHERE).

--EL SALVADOR- WE WILL WANT A FOCUSED DISCUSSION ON EL SALVADOR--INCLUDING LONG AND SHORT TERM STRATEGY INCLUDING OUR THINKING ON THE POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS.

--MEXICO, ARGENTINA AND BRAZIL. HOW VENEZUELA SEES ITS DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS WITH THESE THREE COUNTRIES EVOLVING IN RELATION TO U S POLICIES.

--DRUGS. WE MIGHT WANT TO SPEND ONE HALF HOUR WITH MONTES DE OCA ON IMPROVING OUR COORDINATION ON INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL. I WILL HAVE MORE ON THIS TO SAY IN A SEPARATE CABLE.

--PETROLEUM NATIONALIZATION QUESTIONS. IF WE CAN BE READY, I LIKE THE VICE PRESIDENT TO RAISE OUR CONCERNS ABOUT PETROLEUM NATIONALIZATION CLAIMS AND ASK THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR TO CONVEY TO PRESIDENT HERRERA U S WILLINGNESS TO WORK QUIETLY BUT SPEEDILY TOWARD AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT, LEAVING IT TO ME TO FOLLOW UP HERE ON MODALITIES.

--COORDINATION OF POLICY. WE WILL WANT TO SET UP A REGULAR PATTERN OF POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS WITH VENEZUELA, WHICH IS OUR MAIN "ALLY" IN CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN.

--ARMS SALES. WE MIGHT WANT TO TELL MONTES DE OCA WHETHER WE WILL SELL VENEZUELA THE F-16. HE IS BEHIND THE IDEA AND HOPES WE WILL. WE COULD DISCUSS PUBLIC POLICY PROBLEMS, TIMING AND STRATEGY.

6. I SUGGEST THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS FOR A THREE-DAY VISIT:

--A MEETING WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT. A LUNCH HOSTED BY THE VICE PRESIDENT WOULD BE HIGHLY DESIRABLE BUT A SUBSTANTIVE MEETING WITH HIM IS ESSENTIAL FOR THEM TO MAKE THE TRIP.

--A MEETING WITH SECRETARY HAIG. THIS IS THE SECOND ESSENTIAL MEETING. THEY KNOW THE SECRETARY WILL NOT RETURN UNTIL MAY 6. AGAIN, A BREAKFAST OR LUNCH WOULD BE HIGHLY DESIRABLE, BUT IT SHOULD OT BE A COURTESY CALL OR THE PURPOSE OF THE VISIT IS DEFEATED.

--A MEETING, POSSIBLY A BREAKFAST OR WORKING LUNCH ON THE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

STATE

81 6277460

PAGE 004

NC 6277460

TOR: 221910Z APR 81

HILL, HOSTED BY THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, PLUS OTHER SELECT MEETINGS, POSSIBLY WITH THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE. MONTES DE OCA, BY THE WAY, IS EXTREMELY PERSUASIVE ON THE CARIBBEAN AND CENTRAL AMERICA, PARTICULARLY EL SALVADOR. BROAD EXPOSURE ON THE HILL WOULD BE SUPPORTIVE OF U S POLICY.

--A MEETING WITH CIA DIRECTOR CASEY AT LANGLEY.

--A SUBSTANTIVE "GLOBAL" DISCUSSION INCLUDING EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON US/SOVIET, MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICAN ISSUES PERHAPS CHAIRED BY WALTER STOESSEL INCLUDING S/P AND P/M REGIONAL BUREAU REPRESENTATIVES.

--A SEPARATE FIRST CLASS INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING IN SPANISH WITH VISUALS (PERHAPS IN OPERATIONS CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM) COVERING A FEW SELECT TOPICS--IRAQ/IRAN, AFGHANISTAN, CHINA/ SOVIET UNION, CENTRAL AMERICA--IF IT IS NOT FRESH, CRISP, AND CLASSIFIED BETTER NOT TO BOTHER.

--SELECT MEETINGS WITH KEY JOURNALISTS - NOT A PRESS CONFERENCE. PERHAPS A WORKING LUNCH AT THE WASHINGTON POST AND ONE-ON-ONE MEETINGS WITH KEY COLUMNISTS.

7. OTHER ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED:

--THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHOULD SUPPLY A FIRST-CLASS INTERPRETER TO BE WITH THEM FULL TIME. MONTES DE OCA NEITHER SPEAKS NOR UNDERSTANDS ENGLISH. GARCIA BUSTILLOS HANDLES ENGLISH WELL BUT PREFERS SPANISH.

--THEY ARE BOTH BRINGING THEIR WIVES.

--A PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT SHOULD BE AGREED TO BEFORE THEIR TRIP ALTHOUGH THEY DO NOT SEEK OR EXPECT MAJOR PRESS COVERAGE.

8. ONE FINAL THOUGHT. MONTES DE OCA KNOWS NEXT TO NOTHING ABOUT WASHINGTON NOR THE U S POLITICAL SYSTEM. THIS EXPOSURE WILL BE IMPORTANT FOR HIM. HE IS SO IMPORTANT TO U S INTERESTS IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD WE SHOULD TRY TO LAY IT ON BUG. LUERS

END OF MESSAGE

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